

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Their proposed airing of the Kerry "hit piece" is clearly partisan and contrary to election regulations, as well as betraying the public interest. Their pre-empting of local programming where balanced and important local information may be aired is contrary to the public interest. It seems that when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, stop massive consolidation to allow for diverse opinion in media coverage. They show why the license renewal needs to involve more than a rubber stamp process. Thank you.